



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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COUNCILS COMMITTEE

Board of Education Conference Room
Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor
Thursday, February 26, 2006
10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Joetta Yarbro, Chair
Sydney Bynum
Beverly Cosley
Dana Lesley
Sue Pilson
Colonel J.A. Robbins
James Scott

Committee Members Absent

Michelle Crowley
Barbara Holden
Christy Little
Jerry Maness
Diane Neighbors

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Executive Director
Richard Kennedy, Field Director
Dana Cobb
Rodger Jowers
Robert Smith
Elaine Williams
Gwendolyn Wright
Diane Wise
Marilyn Davis
Kathy Daniels

Interns Present

Elizabeth Tate
Amber Dixon
James Moore

I. Welcome and Introductions

Committee Chair Yarbro convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Commission members, staff and interns introduced themselves and the role in which they serve the agency.

II. Approval of October Minutes

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (PILSON) AND SECONDED (LESLEY) THAT THE OCTOBER 2005 COMMITTEE MINUTES BE APPROVED. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III. *Blueprint for Tennessee's Future: Recommendations for Improving the Quality of Life for Children*

O'Neal presented a draft copy of *Blueprint for Tennessee's Future: Recommendations for Improving the Quality of Life for Children* to the committee stating the handout out is a draft and needs more work. O'Neal stated it is the hope of staff that this document will ultimately become the 2006 KIDS COUNT book which would also include additional longitudinal data for Tennessee. It was stated that the timeline for the completion of this project is as quickly as possible and hopefully within the next two months. O'Neal specifically thanked former TCCY intern and Vanderbilt student, Ashley Mayer for all her hard work on the project. She also thanked Pat Wade, Debrah Stafford and Philip McKenzie for all their work on the project.

O'Neal reported that there are two purposes for the project. First, it will help to provide a framework for exactly where TCCY should focus efforts. And secondly, it will serve as a tool to educate legislators and policy makers about the needs in Tennessee and to help them focus state funding.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (PILSON) AND SECONDED (SCOTT) THAT STAFF CONTINUE IN THEIR CURRENT DIRECTION FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE *BLUEPRINT FOR TENNESS'S FUTURE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN*. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

IV. Children's Advocacy Days 2006

Kennedy reported the working theme for 18th Annual Children's Advocacy Days 2006 is "Children's Health: Planning for the Future." We have booked the War Memorial Auditorium for March 14-15 for Children's Advocacy Days 2006. This will mark a return to the Tuesday-Wednesday format. Staff are open to suggestions for co-sponsors. We have mailed solicitation letters to potential sponsors. We have had conversations with Vanderbilt Institute of Public Policy Studies, Children's Hospital Alliance of Tennessee, Bradford Health Services and MedImmune about significant sponsorship of this year's event. They seem to have a high level of interest and additional conversations will ensue in attempts to secure sponsorships.

We are in the process of securing speakers for the event. We have invited Dr. David Satcher, former Surgeon General, to serve as our keynote speaker. Letters of invitation to speak have been mailed to Commissioner Viola Miller, Department of Children's Services; Dr. Kenneth Robinson, Department of Health; Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts, Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; Commissioner

Virginia Lodge, Department of Human Services; Commissioner Lana Seivers, Department of Education; and Tom Catron, Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination.

Chair Yarbrow encouraged all committee members to attend any part of Children's Advocacy Days they could.

IV. Review of Regional Coordinators' Activities

Information regarding the individual councils and coordinator activities was presented by Rodger Jowers, Southwest; Dana Cobb, Northwest; Elaine Williams, South Central; Kathy Daniels, Upper Cumberland; Marilyn Davis, Southeast; Robert Smith, East Tennessee; Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis/Shelby County; and Diane Wise, Northeast. There was no verbal report provided for the Mid-Cumberland council as that coordinator position is vacant. Each of the reports included council activities that have occurred since the last meeting of the Commission, as well as information about special projects and upcoming council meetings and events. All councils, including Mid-Cumberland, have detailed reports that were emailed to Commission members prior to the meeting.

Due to time constraints, there will be no regional council presentations made to the full Commission on 02/27/2006.

V. Council/Coordinator Discussion – Definitions

Chair Yarbrow facilitated an open discussion with all of the committee members and Regional Coordinators around the topic of defining the various activities that each council sponsors and/or hosts. Each coordinator provided the numerous types of activities with which they are involved. At the end of the discussion, Yarbrow asked that a list of definitions be developed so Commission members know exactly what a coordinator means when they describe a specific event. These definitions should be prepared by the next Commission meeting. Specifically, the committee wants Regional Coordinators to use consistent language in their reports. We are to define the following and clarify the differences between:

1. Conference
2. Training
3. Workshop
4. Special Project
5. Council Meeting
6. Forum
7. Panel
8. Business Meeting
9. Seminar
10. Co-sponsor
11. Co-host
12. Event
13. Program

VI. Other Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Richard Kennedy
Director of Field Operations

Minutes Approved by:

Joetta Yarbrow
Councils Committee Chair

HDRIVE:SHAREDFILES/COMMISSION/MINUTESFOLDER